

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 01546 030654Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----005183 030655Z /21

P 030532Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5302

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1546

STADIS //////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PINT, BM
SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON U HLA SHWE

REF: STATE 111036

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS SENT US BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF U HLA SHWE WHICH THEY UNDERSTAND WAS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT ALONG WITH REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT. INCIDENTALLY, RE PARA 3 REFTEL, MFA OFFICIALS ARE MAKING LITTLE EFFORT TO KEEP PROPOSED APPOINTMENT A SECRET.

2. EMBASSY FILES DO NOT CONTAIN MUCH INFORMATION ON U HLA SHWE. HE ASSUMED HIS PRESENT POSITION IN 1969 AND RETIRED FROM THE ARMY AS A LT. COL. ON MAY 9, 1972. WHEN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT TOOK OVER IN 1962, U HLA SHWE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST ARMY OFFICERS ASSIGNED AS OFFICERS ON SPECIAL DUTY (OSD) TO PERFORM CIVILIAN FUNCTIONS. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, HE WAS NOT PROMINENT IN THE ARMY. HE IS REPORTEDLY A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE BURMA SOCIALIST PROGRAM PARTY (BSPP), BUT IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE. SINCE HE IS IN A MINISTRY WITH WHICH THE EMBASSY HAS NO DEALINGS, NONE OF THE PRESENT EMBASSY STAFF AS YET HAS HAD ANY CONTACT
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WITH HIM.

3. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL RELIABLE SOURCES, THE PROPOSED ENVOY HAS A GOOD REPUTATION AND IS THOUGHT TO HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB AT THE MINISTRY IN A DIFFICULT POSITION. HE IS SAID TO HAVE A GOOD COMMAND OF ENGLISH.

4. U HLA SHWE IS MARRIED TO DAW TIN TIN SEIN. THEY HAVE
FOUR CHILDREN, THREE DAUGHTERS AND ONE SON. THE ELDEST
DAUGHTER IS MARRIED AND REPORTEDLY WILL STAY IN BURMA,
WHILE THE OTHERS WILL ACCOMPANY THE FAMILY TO WASHINGTON.
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